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Representative Jessie Rodriguez Introduces Bill to Extend Duration of Restraining Orders

Madison – On Thursday Representative Jessie Rodriguez (R-Franklin) testified before the Assembly Judiciary Committee on Assembly Bill 707, a proposal she authored with Senator Mary Lazich to extend injunctions on restraining orders. She delivered the following statement:

“Restraining orders were intended to be used as a tool for law enforcement to provide protection for a victim in the event of imminent or serious physical harm, or from the threat of a sudden escalation in violent behavior. By extending the maximum allowable period for the injunction to eight years, the courts can adequately uphold this intention.”

AB 707 would increase the maximum allowable injunction extension from the current four years to eight years. It would allow the courts to lengthen restraining orders if a judge finds a serious potential for future violence.

“The circumstances surrounding these delicate situations should be assessed by the judges based on the facts available in order to adequately address the needs of the victims. This extension would allow judges to exercise their discretion to protect victims from future harm. By enacting this legislation and deterring repeated violent behavior, victims would regain a sense of well-being”.

Jessie Rodriguez is a state representative of Oak Creek, South Milwaukee, and Franklin. She can be reached at Rep.Rodriguez@legis.wi.gov or by phone at (608) 266-0610.

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